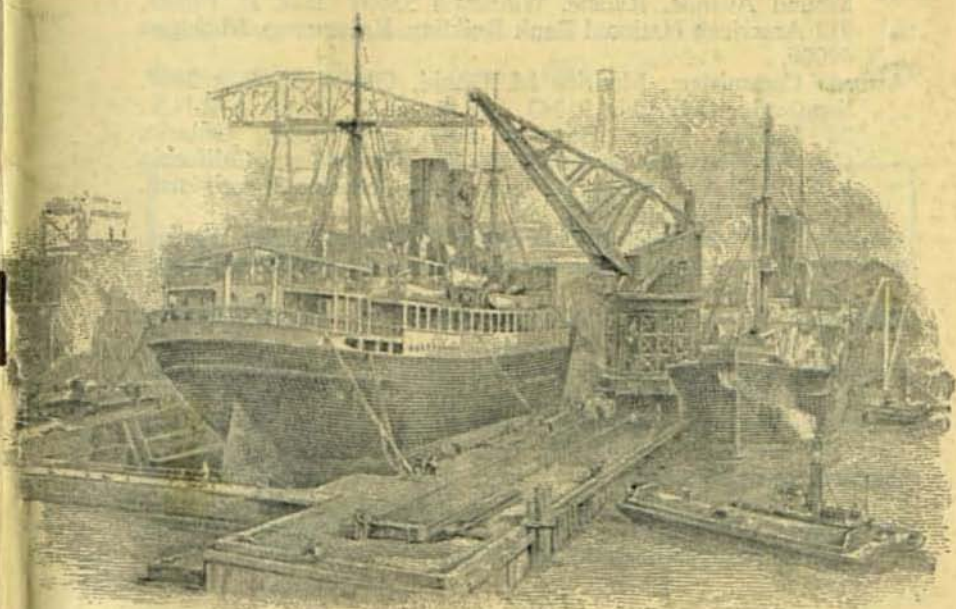


JUNE  
1970



# INTERNATIONAL BANK NOTE SOCIETY



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## International Banknote Society

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# NOTES FROM THE DESK

## OF R. A. BANYAI

Below are some notes on Emanuel Ninger, an American counterfeiter of the late 19th century.

Emanuel Ninger and his wife arrived in the United States in December of 1882 from Rotterdam, Holland. Early in 1883 he purchased a farm in New Jersey.

In his home, Ninger had a special "secret" room in which he produced the excellent forgeries of United States paper currency, mainly of the 20, 50 and 100 dollar denominations. Throughout his forging career, 1883-1896, his wife never knew of his illicit activities.

His work was excellent. A newspaper comment of May, 1882 described one of Ninger's forgeries:

"It is a fifty dollar greenback of 1880 . . . the coloring is excellent, the design clearly reproduced . . . a marvellously fine piece of work. The paper is good and has almost the right feel. . . ."

Ninger was not an ordinary forger who used engraved plates and sophisticated equipment. He used simple tools of the "trade". He obtained fine paper of the quality used by the U.S. Treasury. He essentially traced the genuine bill into the paper with pen and ink drawing skill. A camel's hair brush was used to put colors on the note. The silk threads which ordinarily appeared on the genuine notes were carefully imitated with red and blue inks. Indeed, a crude but most effective way of making money.

Ninger was caught and sentenced to prison in 1896. He served four years from 1896 to 1900.



## **Rise of Foreign Banks in China**

The first country to start banks in China was Great Britain. China opened five seaports to British merchants after the Sino-British War (Opium War). In the 22nd year of Emperor Tao Kuang (1842) the Bank of Western India opened a branch office in Hong Kong. In the 25th year of Emperor Tao Kuang (1845) the Bank was renamed the Oriental Bank and its main office was moved from Bombay to London. It became known as Tun fan Hui Li Yin Hang in Hong Kong. In 1928 it founded a branch office in Canton and later in Shanghai. It was also known as Li Ju Yin Hang in Canton and Shanghai. It often happened that a Bank has a different Chinese name in different cities. The Bank was authorised by the British Government to issue notes in China.

The next British Bank to start operating in China was the Commercial Bank of India (Hui Lung Yin Hang) which founded a branch office in Canton in the 1st year of Emperor Hsien Feng (1851) and in Shanghai in 1855. In the same year the Mercantile Bank of India, London and China (Yu Li Yin Hang) opened a branch office in Shanghai. The Mai Chia Li Yin Hang which was known as the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China established a branch office in Shanghai in 1858.

In 1864 the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation was started by merchants from China, Great Britain, America, Germany and Russia. Later merchants other than the British withdrew their capital so the Bank was operated entirely by British merchants. The main office of the Bank is in Hong Kong with a principal branch office in Shanghai. Branch offices were opened in various cities which included Fuchow, Amoy, Tientsin, Peking, Chungking and Dairen. The Bank occupied an important place in the economic history of China. For several decades it was in charge of the proceeds from Custom duties and the salt tax. It was also the representative of the British Government in China as far as economics was concerned.

Besides the British banks, the Russian businessmen also had a deep influence in China and a medium of this influence is the Russo-Chinese Bank (Hwa Wu Tao Sheng Yin Hang). This bank was founded after the first Sino-Japanese War. During the registration after the war, Germany and France pressured Japan to return the Liaotung Pan Tao (Liao Tun Peninsula) to China for a ransom which China borrowed from Russia. In the same year (1842) Russia founded the Russo-Chinese Bank. Although the Bank was named Russo-Chinese the capital came from Russian and French sources. Only two years later was the Chinese Government allowed

to invest 5 million K'uping taels of silver in the Bank. In 1903 the Bank already had branch offices in 15 cities throughout China: Harbin, Kirin, Hailar, Fentien, Tiehling, Port Arthur, Ying Kow, Tientsin, Peking, Shang Hai, Hankow, Hong Kong, Kalgan, Urgan, Ulan bator and Uliassutia. It even obtained the monopoly to build the Eastern China Railway. The shares it owned in the Eastern China Railway Company were later bought by the Russian Government. In 1910 after Russia lost the Russo-Japanese War the Bank faced financial difficulty. Following a suggestion of the French the Bank was incorporated into the Pei Fang Yin Hang. Its Russian name was changed to Russo-Asiatic Bank although its Chinese name remained the same. An additional amount of twenty-four thousand shares were issued but only one-sixth went into Russian hands. Probably most of the rest went into French hands.

Most of the Japanese banks in China were subsidiaries of the existing Japan banks. The first Japanese bank to become interested in China was the Yokohama Specie Bank (Heng Ping Cheng Chin Yin Hang). In 1898 it established two offices in Hong Kong and Shanghai. Soon its banks were found in Tientsin, New Chuang,



Yinchow, Dairen, Fentien, Changchun, Tienling, Antung and Kung Chu Ling.

The real sphere of influence of the Japanese banks was in North-eastern China: Especially after the Russo-Japanese War, Japan attempted to displace the Russians from North-eastern provinces so that they could control the large natural resources available in that area. Besides the Yokohama Specie Bank there were the Bank of Chosen and the (Cheng Lung Yin Hang). The Chosen Bank was founded near the end of the Ch'ing Dynasty. The Cheng Lung Yin Hang was founded in the 31st year of Emperor (Kuang Hsu) (1906) at Yin K'ou. In the third year of Emperor (Hsien Tung) the Bank was reorganised and the main



office moved to Dairen. The Bank maintains offices in Yin Kow, Fengtien, Chang Chun, Port Arthur, Kan Yuan and Tientsin.

France had two banks in China namely, Comptoir d'Escompte de Paris and the Banque de l'Indochine. The former was a branch of a large commercial bank in France. The well-known Banque de l'Indochine is the Central Bank of French Indo-china (present Vietnam) with the main office in Paris. It had offices in Thailand and Singapore, and also in Shanghai, Hankow, Tientsin, Peking, Canton, Wuchow and Kun Ming, etc.

Belgium had a Banque Sino-Belge and the Credit Foncier d'Extreme Orient (I P'in Fan Kua Yin Hang) which it operated with France. The Banque Sino-Belge was founded in 1903 in Brussels with an office in Shanghai. In 1907 another office was opened in Tientsin. Its investments were in the railway companies in China. The Credit Foncier d'Extreme Orient also had its main office in Brussels. In 1908 it opened an office in Tientsin and Shanghai, Hankow, etc. Its business was housing and realty loans.

The Deutschet-Asiatische Bank (Te Hwa Yin Hang) was founded in 1890 in Bulin. It operates banks in Tientsin, Shanghai and Hankow. It had also issued notes in China including silver tael notes and silver dollar notes.

The Bank of Netherlands Trading Society was founded in 1824 at Amsterdam. It opened an office in Shanghai in 1904. It had issued a small quantity of banknotes.

There were two American Banks which operated also in China. The Pao Hsin Yin Hang appeared in 1864 and the International Banking Corporation in 1902. The latter has branches in Peking, Tientsin and Hankow with the chief office in Shanghai. It had also issued notes in all those cities.

Thus at the end of the Ch'ing Dynasty there were over twenty foreign banks in China. They issued notes and made investments in developing China. They made loans to the Ch'ing Government and through these loans they obtained many special privileges. This situation was not noticed by the Chinese people. The first proposal to start a bank came surprisingly from Prince Kan (Hung Jen Kan) of the Tai P'ing Rebellion. In 1860 he suggested starting a bank to issue notes. In 1892 Cheng Kuan Yin, etc., further pointed out the importance of setting up banks run by the Chinese themselves. However the Ch'ing Government did not respond until after the Sino-Japanese War. On a recommendation of Chang Hsu Wan the Imperial Bank of China was at last opened on February 16th, 1897. More details about this bank and its notes will be found in the third volume of the series on the history of Chinese paper currency. As to the banknotes issued by the foreign banks mentioned in this article they will form the subject of a book which the author is now preparing.

By KING O. MAO, Hong Kong 1969

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the death of our Vice-President, Mr. J. A. Burger. Mr. Burger died suddenly of a heart attack on the first day of January, 1970.

Mr. Burger was one of the great European numismatists. He was most generous in sharing his knowledge with others and assisting the less experienced collector.

We shall miss Mr. Burger and extend to his family the warm sympathy of the Officers and Members of the International Banknote Society.

Mrs. Adolph B. Hill, Jr., Secretary.



# LIBRARY

During the past year we received requests for 22 books in the library. More members should use it as we have received many new books since the last list in the Christmas, 1969 issue of the magazine. The only cost is the postage both ways. We send the books and when you return them, you can enclose the amount of postage with the books.

The library is now off to a good start and we are having labels printed to show "In Memory Of" and "Donated By". We have been changing some labels we had, but now are having our own printed. A copy will be in the next issue.

## BOOKS ADDED TO LIBRARY

Federal Reserve of Philadelphia—Series for Economic Education Booklets as follows:

The Price System—Unemployment in Prosperity, Why?

The Mystery of Economic Growth—Gold-Automation.

The New Poverty—The Balance of Payments.

The National Debt—Inflation and/or Unemployment.

Donated by: Richard A. Banyai.

A Trial Listing of Military Chits by Ruth W. Hill.

Donated by: Author.

The Centinel—Central States Numismatic Society. Vol. 17, No. 1-2.

Prices realised 3rd I.B.S. Auction.

Allied Military Currency by: James Rutlader. 1968 edition.

Donated by: Author.

Post Exchange, Canteen and Other Military Tokens. Reprint from "Numismatist" by: James J. Curto.

Le Banconote d'Europa by: J. Walter—Serbia—Montenegro—Yugoslavia Currency.

Catalog Neto—Espana by: José A. Vicenti. Coins and Currency of Spain, 1869-1968.

Monnaies et Essais—Monetaires Grand Duchy Luxemburg 1795-1965 by: Fern Wictor. Coins and Currency 2nd Edition.

Bank Notes and Coins of the Polish People's Republic by: Czeslaw Kaminski.

Le Billet de Cent Francs De La Banque De France.

Helvetische Munzen Zeitung Nr9 Sept. 1969.

Le Papier Monnaie de la Republique d'Azerbaidjan (1945-1946)  
by: Maurice Muszynski.

Above seven books donated by Maurice Muszynski—  
France.

The following 17 books were donated by Mr. Charles F.  
Warren in memory of Dr. Walter Loeb, a founding member.

Canada and Newfoundland Paper Money—Charlton.

Espana Monedas y Billetes 1869-1968 by: Joes A. Vicenti (1968).

Yugoslavian Paper Money—Spajic (First Edition, 1966).

Le Banconote d'Europa Fascicollo N.1 Rengo Serbia, Montenegro,  
Yugoslavia—J. Walter (1959).

The Paper Money of Panama—E. J. Castillero.

World Paper Money Collector's Guide—D. L. Musser (1959).

German Paper Money Research Report No. 1—D. L. Musser.

Paper Money of the Baltic States—Latvia—Estonia—Lithuania  
by: E. Berzins and D. L. Musser (1961).

Japanese Invasion Money by: Arlie Slabaugh (1963).

Japanese Paper Money by: D. L. Musser—Reprint.

World Coin and Currency Handbook by: G. Sten and D. L.  
Musser (1960). Zerox copy.

Illustrated Money Converter Europe—Perera Co. (1963).

Banknote Grading—A Numerical System—D. Bramwell (1969).  
(Reprint, "Coins and Medals".)

The Story of Money from Barter to Banking—Chase Manhattan  
Bank (1966).

O.P.A. Tokens—Checklist and Album by: J. W. Baum.

Money For All—Story of the Welsh Pound by: I. W. Jones.

Australian Numismatic Journal—Numismatic Society of South  
Australia, Vol. 19, No. 4.

From: Krause Publications Inc., "The Coin Collectors' Capital",  
Ioia, Wisconsin, 54945.



## BOOK REVIEW

THE GUIDE BOOK OF 1670-1970 CANADIAN COINS,  
PAPER CURRENCY, AND TOKENS By SOMER JAMES

The eleventh edition of Somer James' "The Guide Book of 1670-1970 Canadian Coins, Paper Currency, and Tokens" which was released on November 20th, 1969, is greatly enlarged in comparison with the last edition and should be in the library of all interested in Canadian coins, tokens, and paper currency.

Seventy-six pages are devoted to banknotes and the remainder of the 168 page book is devoted to coins and tokens. The book is thus the most complete source of data for collectors of Canadian banknotes.

The new edition contains a number of new features among which are: an increase of 52 pages over the last edition; an increase in page size to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  by  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches giving wider margins; the addition of a column for pricing of proof specimens where known; a completely re-written and greatly expanded section on Canadian banknotes; a section on definitions and abbreviations enlarged by six new pages of terms; a three-page descriptive listing of pattern coins with valuations for Canada, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia; a longer listing showing more dates for proof and specimen sets; an enlarged listing of Hudson's Bay Company tokens; a listing of counterfeit decimal coins; a listing of the various metals for the British Columbia \$10.00 and \$20.00 coins of 1862; a grading system for banknotes; the listing and pricing of asterisk banknotes; and a greatly expanded section with photographs on Canada's Chartered banknotes and Canada's Broken and Defunct banknotes.

The features of the previous edition are in the present edition and include pricing of all coins and banknotes from fair or good through uncirculated and where applicable proof condition; mintage figures for all decimal coins; photographs of all type coins and enlarged photographs showing the important die varieties; an index for tokens and also a subject index; a wire spiral binding which allows the book to lie flat when open; a complete listing with valuations of all tokens included in P. N. Breton's book and some that are not; a listing of all decimal coins for Canada, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia; an illustrated grading guide; and the use of Yeoman numbers for all type coins.

This book is the most complete catalogue of Canadian coins, tokens and banknotes available. With all the new features and the addition of 52 pages, the price is only \$2.95 which is only 45 cents above the previous edition.

Somer James is to be congratulated on the vast amount of data on Canadian numismatics he has included in his new catalogue and in the clear manner in which it is presented. The catalogue is now available from most coin dealers or the publisher, Regency Coin and Stamp Co. Ltd., 101 Lindsay Building, 228 Notre Dame Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

# Russian Skin Money

by A. DOLL and R. A. PIERCE

Ever hear of sealskin money?

There was quite a lot of it in circulation in Alaska early in the last century, but it is a mighty scarce item today. If you can come up with some it should be worth more than its weight in gold!

More than a hundred thousand of the sealskin and parchment tokens were issued and circulated in the Russian American colonies, but only about twenty specimens are known today. Anyone who finds another, perhaps among old family papers or in the collection of some departed uncle with a numismatic bent, will have a rare and valuable bit of Alaskana.

From the 1740s, Russian coins were brought to the Aleutians and later to the mainland. Some have been found. Copper coins were issued in Siberia from 1763 to 1781, and these too circulated in Alaska. But coins were in short supply. For want of a medium of exchange, most transactions between the Russian trading companies and their Russian and native workers had to be made in kind or kept entirely in account books, a cumbersome, time-consuming method, with many possibilities for error. When the Russian-American Company was granted a monopoly over the whole of present-day Alaska and affairs were put on more of a business basis, the problem became more acute. In 1803 Alexander Baranov, the chief manager of the colonies, complained of the shortage to the main office in St. Petersburg. He asked the company either to provide more coins, or to issue some kind of tokens on parchment, of various colours.

Permission was asked of the Crown, and granted. The company decided not to provide coins—the natives, avid for metal, might turn them to other uses, even for spears and arrowheads. It was thought better to follow Baranov's alternative suggestion and to send tokens. An initial issue of 50,000 roubles was printed—10,000 roubles each in twenty, ten, five, two and one rouble denominations.

As the tokens of the original issue became worn out, others were printed, in denominations of one, five, ten, and twenty-five roubles and, to satisfy a need for small change, of ten, twenty-five and fifty kopeks. Between 1816 and 1826, the company issued 42,000 roubles worth of such tokens; in 1826, 30,000 more; and in 1834, yet another 30,000. The first issues, printed on sealskin, were nicknamed *kozhanye* (skins). The term persisted, although issues after 1826 were printed on heavy parchment.



Surviving specimens of the tokens vary in size and shape according to denominations. The ten kopek pieces had holes in the upper corners, the twenty-five kopek pieces had all four corners cut, and the fifty kopek pieces had two corners cut. Each was of a different pastel shade, with the Russian-American Company seal and the denomination on one side, and the words **Марка в Америке** (Token in America) on the other, with the denomination in figures and a serial number. The various sizes, colours, holes and cut corners helped illiterate company employees and natives distinguish between the pieces, which were often soiled and worn.



Russian "leather money" used in Alaska in place of coins or currency from 1804 to 1867.

Usually about 36,000 roubles in tokens were in circulation at any one time. Upon liquidation of the company after the sale of Alaska in 1867, nearly all which were then in circulation were exchanged for Russian state money.

Today only a few specimens of the tokens remain. About a dozen are to be found in the Soviet Union, including four in the celebrated numismatic collection in the Hermitage Museum in Leningrad, and one in the regional history museum in faraway Kamchatka. A few others are in private collections—two specimens in Finland, several in the United States, including one in the Chase National Bank in New York City and another in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. All of these are in lower denominations. No examples of the ten and twenty ruble denominations are known to exist.

Yet, there may be more. Foreign skippers who visited the Russian colonies, and the first Americans who came after the sale remarked on the curious "leather money" of the Russians. Some may have acquired specimens as souvenirs. If their descendants have kept them they are of great value.



# ***Mexican Paper Money***

THE STRANGE CASE OF BANKS THAT NEVER EXISTED  
... BUT ISSUED BANKNOTES WHICH CIRCULATED  
WIDELY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ...

By EDUARDO ROSOVSKY

I.—In 1913, the Mexican Revolution had reached its peak under the political head, Venustiano Carranza, Governor of the State of Coahuila, who had managed to unify most of the revolutionary groups which had become dispersed.

In the northern part of the country, there stood out especially General Francisco Villa, better known as **Pancho Villa**, famous guerrilla chief of his time. Many historians affirm that his brilliant facts of battle and his many victories over his enemies brought on with time the jealousy of Carranza, and the fear of the possibility of Villa's outshining him caused a cooling of relations between them. Others have assured that this was due to the rough and independent Villa.

By then, after a series of bright victories, Francisco Villa took the City of Chihuahua, capital of the State with the same name and on December 8, 1913, was appointed **Temporary Governor of the State** by a Council of Generals. On the tenth day of the same month, he decreed the issue of bills, which people later called "**las sábanas de Villa**" or Villa's sheets ... and on the



12th, issued another decree creating the **Banco del Estado de Chihuahua**, "which was to be established in the Capital of the

State and was to operate as expected of an institution such as that", and then ordered an issuance of banknotes in the amount of **TEN MILLION PESOS**, "guaranteed by gold, silver and copper coins struck by the Chihuahua Mint especially for this purpose", as it appeared published a week later, in the official newspaper **Periódico Oficial del Gobierno Constitucionalista del Estado de Chihuahua**.

The notes were ordered from ABN in 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 500 **pesos** denominations and the person placed in charge of this matter was Eugenio Soulé, who had Villa's absolute confidence and whose signature was the **ONLY ONE** at the bottom centre of these bills, in his capacity of **cashier**. (Fig. I.)

The Signature on either side: Interventor of the Government (to the left) and Manager (to the right), were left blank because . . .

There simply was no such Manager . . . Nor was there said banking institution . . . Nor an address, personnel or banking operations. The bank **NEVER EXISTED** as it was **NEVER ESTABLISHED** due to several motives; the ABN Co. delayed delivery of bills and, meanwhile, Villa was replaced as Governor by order of Carranza, who named General Manuel Chao to substitute him (this man might have been the probable candidate for Government Interventor to be named by Villa). General Villa again took charge of his army and returned to battle. Badly in need of money, he then ordered the famous "**dor caritas**"—**TWO FACE** bills to be issued.



It has been said that, when at last, the bills of the **Banco** arrived to Mexican Customs, Carranza "froze" them for some time,



as his relations with Villa were worsening. When, finally, the crates containing bills were delivered to Villa, he was so delighted with their beautiful design and fine engraving, that he decided to place them in circulation without waiting, and with only **one signature** and **NO DATE** of issue.

This is how the **Banco** decree was signed by Francisco Villa when he was Governor of Chihuahua and its establishment depended greatly on the arrival of the banknotes. Later, said decree was simply ignored totally and—there was no bank. . . .

It is also curious to note that said **Banco** which, as we have pointed out, did not exist, later had a "branch office" in the State of Durango. Said branch, of course, did **NOT** exist either . . . but there circulated some **TWO FACES** bills of **TWENTY PESOS** (Fig. II), with a **resello** or seal on the reverse which said: "Banco del Estado de Chihuahua, Durango, Dgo.", signed in manuscript by General M. Arrieta who was also in the movement and was brother of the Governor of Durango, also General, Domingo Arrieta (Fig. III).



II.—The case of the **BANCO REVOLUCIONARIO DE GUERRERO** was different, having been ordered by General Emiliano Zapata in the South. It was different in motive and in form. After flooding the southern and central sections of the country with hundreds of issues, specially printed on cardboard by the thousands, in large and small towns under his domination, and lacking in decrees and with no apparent control, however little, his paper money was probably the least accredited and most scorned of all, so that Zapata decided to create a bank of issue to give prestige to his paper.

Said bank was "created" in Chilpancingo, Capital of the State of Guerrero and started to issue its notes on October 6, 1914, with face value of **ONE PESO** (A series) and **FIVE PESOS**; on the 20th of the same month, those of **TEN** and **TWENTY** pesos; on the 1st of November, a second series (B) of the **ONE PESO** value (Fig. IV) and, finally, on the 1st of December, those of **TWO PESOS**. This bank was not only lacking an address, personnel and operations, but also in a **CORRESPONDING DECREE!**

Here we have, then, the story of two banks which did not exist and whose bills, nevertheless, were widely circulated. Those of the Banco del Estado de Chihuahua are now sought by collectors, especially because of their beauty and because they may still be found in excellent condition, as some were not circulated. The greater part of those issued by the Banco Revolucionario de Guerrero are very rare and reach high prices.





# Publicity and Membership

by FLETCHER WARREN

Chairman, Publicity and Membership Committee

Greetings from your Chairman of the Publicity and Membership Committee. The committee has just completed its first year. At the start of this first year plans were made as to how the publicity campaign for the International Banknote Society would be handled. As the year turned out not all of the plan was carried out. However it is felt that the ground work was laid for the basic publicity which can be expanded to give more complete coverage this next year. The goal which your chairman hoped to attain was to have a total of 500 members in the International Banknote Society at the start of 1970. While this goal was not met, we did come very close as our Secretary has just informed me that we have 470 members as we enter 1970. This increase in membership is due almost entirely to the efforts of a very small group of hard-working people. It is hoped by your chairman that each and every member of the I.B.N.S. will seriously consider the problem of increasing the membership and invite friends who collect paper money to join our Society.

During 1969 over two dozen articles appeared in the numismatic magazines and the newspapers. Many of these articles included pictures of notes. As a result of these articles many inquiries were received during the year. In answer to each inquiry a long personal letter describing in detail the many advantages of the I.B.N.S. was sent. It is hoped that the use of the forthcoming "Advantages of Membership in the I.B.N.S." booklet can reduce the length of these letters since the answers to most questions will be found in this booklet.

In 1970 your chairman plans to try not only to keep up the amount of publicity received by the Society in 1969 but to increase it in scope. To best do this the assistance of more people is urgently needed. Any members who feel that they might like to help in the field of publicity please contact your chairman. The list of jobs can be outlined so that you can choose a job that you feel best suited to do. I would also be very happy to hear from those members having ideas on how best to publicise the Society.

In order to continue to grow we must have continuous worldwide publicity. With the increasing number of collectors of paper money we must reach out to meet these people and inform them of the many benefits of the International Bank Note Society.

# Schelswig Holstein Plebiscite

by F. PHILIPSON

This is the Jubilee year that brings to mind how the end of W.W.I brought about a change on the whole map of Europe, that of a decision from the Peace Conference, which suggested that Denmark should have her territory restored in Schelswig Holstein that had been divided between Austria and Prussia in 1864, then when Prussia in turn defeated Austria, she gained all the territory.

Now, Denmark was being offered the whole back again, but wisely asked for only that which held a majority of her own folk, this created the need of the plebiscite.

An International Commission was set up with FLENSBURG as its Headquarters under the care of Great Britain, France, Norway and Sweden who were to be responsible for law and order and even operated their own postal system. To assist during the period January 20th, 1920 till July 7th same year, were the 1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters and the 22nd Battalion Chasseurs Alpin only, also a small British Naval Detachment "off shore". It is significant that among the many Notes issued by various towns during this period, the town of **STEINFELD** issued one showing a British and a French Soldier, each with their country's colours dated July 31st, 1920.



The Sherwood Foresters had the unique honour of representing the first "foreign" power to use the **KIEL CANAL** which up to



that moment had been VERBODEN to all, except Germany who herself built it as a key to peace or war, the voyage on the S.S. EDWARD WOERMAN had not been without incident, mine sweepers having had to clear the way, taking a day to pass through the Canal itself, they finally berthed by the quay at MURWIK and were eventually billeted in the MARINE SCHULE which was the German Naval Academy, all set for duty by January 27th. 1920 in FLENSBURG, their main Headquarters.

The Northern Zone were the first to vote on February 10th and detachments of troops were sent to TONDERN, APENRADE and to the ISLAND of SYLT as well as other places but there was no trouble, the Southern Zone was different with demonstrations regular till the final voting on March 14th with outbreaks at KIEL and also HAMBURG upholding the German majority, the final outcome gave back to Denmark all territory above the suggested CLAUSEN LINE, this is clearly shown of the Note issue of TINGLIFF, dated April 1st, 1920. The French Battalion who were the first troops to leave were honoured as guests of the King of Denmark and feasted at COPENHAGEN, after which KING CHRISTIAN asked permission to entertain the British Troops, on being readily granted by U.K. Government, the 1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters departed for COPENHAGEN and dined with King Christian and Staff which included the Danish Admiral and to each officer and man a Medal was presented, specially struck for the occasion, i.e., **H.M. CHRISTIAN X** with reverse "**SELSWIG 1920**". a round of banquets followed with entertainment lasting three days, the famous TIVOLI was included, this



fitting farewell and thanks on June 16th marked the termination of duty and the Battalion were soon on their way back to England.

The tension of the whole operation can be judged by the various note issues produced, the Danish community showed no bias, while the German issues were often aggressive as will be observed by the note of **QUERN** and the Danish Flag being trampled upon.



So many of our readers are familiar with **ROBIN HOOD**, that one must mention that the Territorial Battalions of the Sherwood Foresters are known as "Robin Hood" Battalions, a reference to that well known story, was made in the Danish Admiral's speech at the Banquet when paying high tribute to the assistance given, the full details were given to the writer when invited as a guest at a Sherwood Foresters' Association meeting.

The above is only a condensed version of the whole story arranged to give a fuller interest to the notes themselves, which many collectors have already in their albums, a wide variety of these interesting, colourful notes can still be obtained.

P.S.—The Sherwood Foresters were the only British Regiment selected to do this duty and only one French.

This famous Regiment is yet another to lose its identity by amalgamation.



# ***1917-1921 Paper Money of the Amur Region***

by VICTOR C. SEIBERT, U.S.A.

The collection of the paper money of the Amur Region of Siberia (Fig. 1) for the 1917-1921 period offers enough challenges to make it interesting, educational, and yes, possibly even economically satisfying.



The Russian influence in the history of this region must begin with Russia's famous frontiersman, Yermac Timoseef, who in the 16th century began to attack the Tartars on Siberian soil. When he had difficulty holding the lands that he had wrestled from the Tartars, he appealed to the Czar of Muscovy for help. The Russian reinforcements that were sent in reply to the appeal frequently did not stop on Yermac's borders but extended themselves until they came in contact with the Eastern Sea or the Chinese. Then followed over 200 years of struggles between the Russians and Chinese. By 1854-1856 Count Murovieff had established Russian military stations at Alexandrovsk and Nikolaevsk. By the Treaty of Tien-Tsin in 1858 China agreed that the north bank of the Amur River and all territory north of this river (including the Amur Region) would become Russian territory and that both banks of the Amur River below the confluence of the Amur-Ussuri Rivers also became Russian territory. By 1860 General Ignatieff forced Prince Kung to agree that Russian territory included the broad plains to the Tuman River, and by 1900 Russia had added what were then called the Maritime and Amur Provinces.

The Amur Region itself during the 1917-1921 period was about 83,000 square miles in size, and with a milder climate than much of Siberia. Its valleys were numerous but narrow. Most of its people lived nomadic lives (Fig. 2) and development of the



region was slow. However, there were two favourable factors that would stimulate much trade in the immediate future. The first was the fact that the harbours to the east were ice-bound only a very short time each year compared to those to the north; and secondly, the construction of the Trans-Siberian Railroad, across this region. But, even in its comparatively undeveloped condition both the Red and White Guard Armies realised the potential value of the region and much fighting between the two occurred here. It was after the success of the Red Army over the White Guards that this region developed rapidly.

Throughout the history of the Amur Region, the inhabitants carried on much trade with the Chinese. Also thousands of Ukrainians migrated to the Amur to settle in its fertile valleys. So, the collector can expect to find some characteristics of these two peoples on the paper money issued by the different agencies during the 1917-1921 period.

The paper money issued in the Amur Region during the 1917-1921 period may be grouped into four categories: authorised regional governmental agencies; authorised local banking agencies; local cooperatives; and railways.

(Fig. 3) is a 500 ruble note issued by the Blagowestchensk State Bank on 8 December 1919 as shown by the stamped data on the reverse side. These notes bear a very distinct and varied





watermark including the words, "State Bank". The note is 152 mm x 98 mm in size and .006 inches in thickness. The series consisted of 500, 1000, and 5000 ruble notes for a total value of 11,750,000 rubles.

The 5 ruble note (Fig. 4) was issued 14 August 1918 and bears serial No. 066. It was issued by the Union Ust and Amur Cooperative, Series A, D, N, and O are known to still exist. These were distributed in book form and issued to cooperative members for the purchase of the necessities of life and were torn from the book along the left-hand perforations. The notes were issued in denominations of 1, 2, 3, 5, and 10 rubles. The notes with light blue obverse and light tan reverse are 153 mm x 91 mm in size and .006 inches in thickness.



The 5 and 10 ruble notes (Figs. 5 and 6) were issued by the Amur Region Executive Committee on 28 May and 10 April 1918. They were in a series consisting of 5, 10, 15, 25, and 100 ruble notes. Only 50,400 of the 10 ruble notes and 663,000 of the 5 ruble notes were issued. The 5 ruble note is green and 104 mm x 69 mm in size and the 10 ruble note is rose in colour and 145 mm x 88 mm in size. Both are .005 inches in thickness.



In 1918 the Blagowestchensk Municipal Council issued (Figs. 7 and 8) a 3 ruble note. The series consisted of 1 and 3 ruble notes that were similar to the ones issued by the Amur Regional Com-



mittee. On January 26 1918 200,000 of the 3 ruble notes were issued and then on 27 February 1918 110,000 more were issued. These are sometimes referred to as Municipal Bills of Exchange or Small Change Bank Notes. They are green in colour and 142 mm x 86 mm in size and .005 inches in thickness.



In 1920 a 500 ruble note (Fig. 9) was issued by the Blagoveshchensky Departmental State Bank with the signature of T. H. Kooksenok. The series consisted of 100, 500, 1000, 3000, and 5000 ruble notes. They were issued in the following amounts:

100 ruble	200,600
500 ruble	307,400



1000 ruble	1,779,100
3000 ruble	1,263,741
5000 ruble	794,800

The 500 ruble note is rose-tan in colour and 107 mm x 65 mm in size and .003 inches in thickness.

The 1 ruble note (Figs. 10 and 11) was issued in 1919 by the Amur Railway which ran from Khabarovsk to Blagowestchensk. At Khabarovsk it connected with the Ussuri Railway-all contributing to the total Trans-Siberian Railway System. The Amur Railway had an overall length of about 325 miles. These notes were issued to the railway employees as payments for services rendered. The series consisted of 1, 3, and 5 ruble notes. The notes







are brown, green and blue respectively. They are 100 mm x 68 mm in size

Another 1 ruble note (Fig. 12) was issued by the Amur Regional Soviet Cooperative in 1919. The entire series consisted of the 50 kopek, 1 and 3 ruble notes of which 250,000 of each were issued. The notes are 112 mm x 64 mm in size and only .003 inches in thickness.

For the serious collector of the paper money of this region, may I suggest the following two reading references: (Both in Russian) A. Pogrebetzky, "Monetary Circulation and Currency in the Far East during the War and Revolution 1914-1924" Harbin 1924; and "World Collector" Alma Ata 1967.



# **The One Rupee Emergency Currency Notes of Hyderabad State, India**

by HURMUZ KAUS

"Qanoon Sikka-e-Qartas Sarkar-e-A'ali" or "The Paper Currency Act of His Exalted Highness The Nizam's Government" was passed on 4th June 1918. Soon after, an order was placed with Messrs. Waterlow & Sons of London, for printing One Rupee Notes. After some time, the Notes were received in Hyderabad and were put into circulation. Since the Hyderabad Rupee coin and its silver fractions<sup>1</sup> were of high-touch silver, i.e. 81.20%, the comparatively poor paper currency did not appeal to the subjects of a rich and flourishing Feudatory State, hence the Notes were withdrawn after being in circulation for about a year.

During the Second World War (1939-1945), there was a currency crisis in Hyderabad and the price of silver having gone high, the Government of the Nizam decided to issue One Rupee Notes once again. As the Nizam's Government was a subject government of the British Imperial Government of India<sup>2</sup>, the Nizam's Mint at Hyderabad switched on to war-work, such as cutting, melting, rolling and annealing metal for the arsenals, etc.; hence the routine work of striking coins<sup>3</sup> was stopped for the duration.

In the Notification dated 6th Bahman 1352. Fasli,—(13th December 1942), it was declared that ONE RUPEE EMERGENCY NOTES—the subject-matter of this article—will be put into circulation as legal tender from 16th Bahman 1352. Fasli,—(20th December 1942). As the bulk of the work was immense and in view of the war-work being on hand at the Nizam's Mint, the authorities decided to entrust the printing of the proposed Notes to the Government of India Security Printing Press at Nasik, in the Bombay Presidency. The Security Press accepted the order, but the Press was also, in its turn, engaged in war-work, hence the order was cancelled in view of the circumstances.

The authorities at Hyderabad finally decided to have the proposed Notes printed at the Nizam's Government Central Press at Hyderabad, and get the cutting, numbering and printing the

<sup>1</sup> Rupee, Half-Rupee, Quarter-Rupee and One-eighth-Rupee.

<sup>2</sup> The Nizam's State was the largest and the Premier State of all the Native States of India, with its own currency, in gold, silver and copper and in paper and its own Postal Department, etc.

<sup>3</sup> The Hyderabad coinage consisted of Pies, Annas and Rupees thus: 12 Pies make an Anna and 16 Annas make a Rupee.



signature of the issuing authority done at the Nizam's Mint, the former shouldering a heavy task and the latter shouldering a heavy responsibility. Though it was stipulated that the proposed One Rupee Emergency Currency Notes would be put into circulation on 16th Bahman 1325. Fasli, (20th December 1942), they were put into circulation in the month of Isfandar 1352. Fasli (January 1943), as the work was delayed due to circumstances beyond control. During the early months twenty-five lakhs<sup>4</sup> of Notes were printed per month, but later, with the help of addi-



<sup>4</sup> A Lakh is 100,000 (one hundred thousand).

tional printing machines, the production was increased to seventy-five lakhs of Notes per month. Thus, the SECOND or EMERGENCY Issue of the ONE RUPEE NOTES of Hyderabad State made their appearance early in the year 1943, during the Second World War.

The Notes were printed by photo-litho process on unwater-marked paper, supplied partly by the Titagur Paper Mills of Bengal and partly by the Sirpur Paper Mills of Hyderabad. There was a little difference in the size of their sheets, the former being 26 x 32½ inches and the latter being 24 x 32½ inches. Each sheet consisted of eighty pieces, each measuring 4 x 2½ inches.

The Notes were multi-coloured, comprising mainly of pink, violet, light-blue, light-green and dull-brown, the colours being supplied by Messrs. John Dickinson of London.

The Notes had code-letters with numbers running from the beginning into six digits, thus 000001, placed in the middle at the bottom, on the obverse, in English letters and figures respectively.

If there were any flaws in the printing, cutting or numbering, the defective Notes were cancelled by a perforated cancellation, and all such specimens, collected at the Central Press and at the Mint, were destroyed by fire, once in a month, in the presence of responsible officers of both the Departments.

The cost of printing worked out to Rs. 3-14-0<sup>5</sup> per 1000 Notes and that of cutting, numbering and bundling, to Rs. 0-12-4 per 1000 Notes.

The Notes were printed on both sides, the design being very ornate and ornamental, on a background of various types of engine-turned designs for security purpose.

**THE DESIGN.** The obverse shows a central panel with the words, "AEK RUPIA SIKKA-E-OSMANIA", in Urdu, meaning "ONE RUPEE OF OSMANIA CURRENCY",<sup>6</sup> flanked by the Urdu figure "1" on either side. At top left, within an ornamental panel, appears a banner showing upon it a Crescent and a five-pointed Star,<sup>7</sup> the banner being superimposed with a shield bearing a KULCHA, or "LOAF" (i.e. Bread), the whole being surmounted by the Nizam's Dastar-e-Mubarak, i.e. Crown, formed by the Arabic words, "AL AZMATH-UL-ILLAH", meaning "Glory is God's", in Tughra script, this being the Motto of the Nizam. In the curved panel in the centre, at top, appear the Urdu words, "SARKAR-E-A'ALI", meaning "The Supreme Government", as the Government of the Nizam was known locally thus. Within an ornamental panel at top right appears the Urdu figure "1". In the

<sup>5</sup> This was the style of writing figures, i.e. 3 Rupees, 14 Annas and no Pies.

<sup>6</sup> Vide my article on "Sikka-e-Osmania" in NUMISMATIC CIRCULAR (Published by Messrs. Spink & Son, Ltd., London), for December 1957 and January 1958.

<sup>7</sup> "Crescent and Star" is the religious symbol of the Muslims. It was adopted in Hyderabad during the reign of Nawab Afzal-ud-Daulah (1857-1869). While the Jewish star or "David's Star" or "Solomon's Seal" is six pointed, later adopted by Christians, the Muslim Star is five-pointed.



panel at lower right appear the Urdu words, "MINJANIB SARKAR-E-A'ALI", meaning "On behalf of H.E.H. The Nizam's Government". In the panel at lower left appears the signature of the issuing authority—the Finance Minister<sup>8</sup>—in facsimile. In between the above two, appear the Code-letters and the Serial-numbers, in English.

The reverse shows the obverse and the reverse of the QUATERNARY RUPEE<sup>9</sup> of the Emergency currency coins of Hyderabad in the centre, with four panels, two at top and two at bottom, each showing the denomination, in words, in the four languages that were in use in Hyderabad, besides Urdu, which was the official language of the State, thus: ENGLISH, top left; KANERESSE, top right; TELEGU, bottom left; and MARHATTI, bottom right. In the ornamental panel at top left appears the Urdu figure "1" and within a similar panel at top right the denomination appears in Arabic SIAQ figure for "1".

I feel there are certain points in the description of the design of the Note, which have much of "local touch", which the readers in other parts of India in general and in countries outside India in particular, may not be able to understand. As much the following brief "retrospect" will, I hope, prove useful to the readers in understanding them.

**THE STATE.** Hyderabad State was situated centrally in the peninsular portion of India, and flourished under SEVEN rulers, from 1718 to 1947, which could be divided into two major periods, viz.: (1) as part and parcel of the magnificent Mughal Empire and (2) as part and parcel of the glorious British Empire, from 1718 to 1858 and from 1858 to 1947, respectively.<sup>10</sup>

The Great Indian Mutiny took place in 1957-58 and in the struggle between the "Badshah Ghazi" and the "Kampany-e-Angrez Bahadur",<sup>11</sup> India passed under the British Crown. The just, tolerant and far-sighted British created States out of the chaos and confusion, allotting a Principality or a State to the Princes and Nobles who rendered them help during the troubled times. Thus a new chapter in the annals of Hyderabad State was opened during the reign of Nawab Afzal-ud-Daulah, the Fifth of the line of the Nizams, and in addition to his Mughal titles—NIZAM-UL-MULK, ASAF JAH—the British bestowed the title HIS HIGHNESS upon him. His grandson, Meer OSMAN Ali Khan, the Seventh of the line, ascended the throne in 1911 and ruled till the Partition-cum-Independence of India in 1947.

<sup>8</sup> The signature of the Finance Minister of H.E.H. The Nizam's Government on the Note illustrated here is that of late Mr. Zahed Husain, on whom the title "Zahed Jung" was bestowed by the Nizam.

<sup>9</sup> Emergency Rupee and its fractions with a high percentage of alloy and security edge. Vide, "The Hyderabad Mint Manual" (by H. C. H. Armstead, Mint Master, 1944, Second Edition, pages 32 and 33).

<sup>10</sup> Vide, NUMISMATIC CIRCULAR (Spink & Son, Ltd., London), for November 1965, pages 233-234.

<sup>11</sup> Locally, the Mughal Emperor was known as "Badshah Ghazi", i.e. The Victorious King and the English East India Co. were known as "Kampany-e-Angrez Bahadur", i.e. The Brave English Company.

rendering yeoman service to the British Government during the two Great Wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45. For the services he rendered during the First World War, the thoughtful British Government bestowed the title HIS EXALTED HIGHNESS upon him. In this article we are concerned more with the time of His Exalted Highness than with that of his august predecessors, as the One Rupee Emergency Currency Notes were issued during his time and under his commands.

**THE KULCHA.** Kulcha is an oven-baked bread of about three to six inches in diameter, made of wheat flour. In oriental countries, stories, folk-lore, legends, epics and traditions count more than historical facts based on chronicles and records. After the death of Aurangzaib,<sup>12</sup> the last of the six Great Mughals, in 1707, the Mughal Empire began to disintegrate due to corruption, maladministration and favouritism. Seeing such conditions at the Mughal Imperial Court, Meer Qamar-ud-deen Khan, better known by his Mughal titles, NIZAM-UL-MULK, ASAF JAH—who was a noble of the Royal Court and a Governor of a Province, left Dehli for Deccan, to save the southern Province of the Mughal Empire from falling into the hands of the Maharattas, who had established themselves on the western coast of peninsular India, contagious to the Deccan.

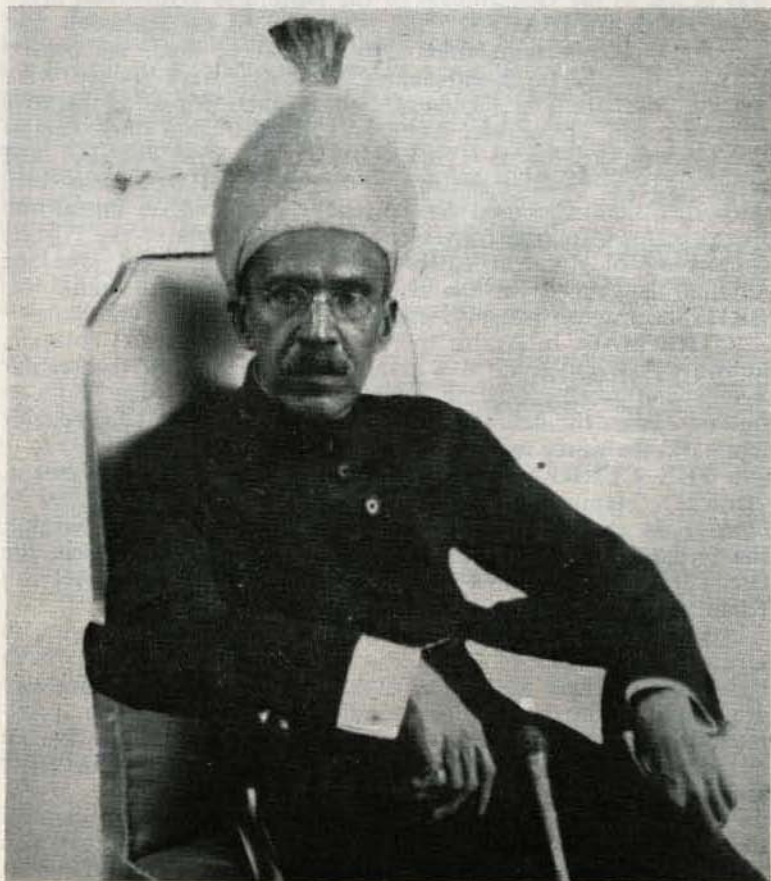
Legend says that on his way to the Deccan, Asaf Jah was tired and hungry and camped at a place where lived a "Wali" or "Saint" who was much respected by the local people for his blessings and correct predictions. Seeing Asaf Jah tired and hungry, the Saint offered him a few KULCHAS tied in a piece of yellow-coloured cloth. It is said that Asaf Jah consumed SEVEN Kulchas, and while thanking the Saint for the kind act, returned the rest tied in the same cloth. The Saint, it is said, blessed him and predicted that Asaf Jah would be successful in his mission and shall establish his rule and his dynasty in the Deccan, the latter consisting of SEVEN rulers, a reference to the SEVEN Kulchas, Asaf Jah had consumed.

Asaf Jah was successful in his mission. Severing his connections from the Mughal Court, he established his rule in the Deccan, but being a soldier of fortune and a shrewd statesman, swore nominal allegiance to his Master, and left a Will, in a clause of which he advised his successors to remain faithful to the Emperor and his progeny. In remembrance of the Seven Kulchas and the yellow coloured cloth, his progeny adopted the former as their Crest and the latter as the State colour, which continued till the end of the dynasty on 15th August 1947, when

<sup>12</sup> Aurangzab was the first Mughal Emperor to conquer the South or the Deccan (pronounce "Dakan"), defeating the rulers of the Kingdoms of Bijapur and Golconda, and establishing Mughal rule in the South. Nawab Meer Qamar-ud-deen Khan, known by his Mughal title Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah, was also a Governor of the Deccan under the Mughals, before he severed his connection from the Mughal Court in about 1718. Vide, my article "Independence of Asaf Jah from Mughal Rule" in Spink's NUMISMATIC CIRCULAR for November 1965, pages 233-234.



the British, granting Independence, withdrew from India. The Seventh or last of the line was His Exalted Highness, Nawab Sir Meer OSMAN Ali Khan Bahadur, Asaf Jah VII, who lived a retired life at his Palace, The Nazri Bagh, for two decades, and passed away at the ripe old age of about eighty-two on 24th February 1967.<sup>13</sup>



His Exalted Highness The Nizam, Asaf Jah VII, during whose reign The Emergency Currency Notes were issued. (1911–1947. Died 1967.)

**THE ERA.** Muslims conquered India and established their rule in the last decade of the twelfth century, bringing with them their Era—The Hijri—based on lunar calculations. India comprises of two great stocks of mankind, the Aryans and the

<sup>13</sup> While his forefathers are buried in the Royal Tomb at Mecca Masjid in the old city of Hyderabad, Asaf Jah VII's Tomb is in the "Judi Mosque", in front of his Palace.

Dravadians, the calendars of both being based on solar calculations. As such the Hijri Calendar of the Muslim conquerors was not acceptable in India. In view of this the Muslims introduced a Calendar, of Persian origin, based on the Harvest, known as FASLI, from FASL or HARVEST. While the HIJRI calendar was in use at the Royal Court of the Nizam, the FASLI calendar was in use in the Government of the Nizam, in Hyderabad State.

**THE LANGUAGES.** India is a land of castes, creeds and languages. The Nizams ruled over a tract of land, the central Deccan, wherein three indigenous languages were spoken, viz.: Telugu, Marhatti and Kanerese, and as such, for administrative purposes, the Hyderabad State was divided into three major DIVISIONS, known as TELENGANA, MARHATWADA and KARNATAK. Besides the official language, URDU, these three languages were also used on Currency Notes and on Postal and Fiscal Stamps, for the convenience of the subjects of the Nizam, comprising of different castes and communities, and speaking different languages. As the Supreme Government of India was BRITISH, English was also used to a great extent in the State.

**THE SIAQ.** In Arabic there is a sort of numerical notation, known as SIAQ, which is a style of figures between the regular figures and words, used in maintaining accounts. The Note in question bears the denomination in all three styles, (1) the regular figure, (2) the words and (3) the Siaq.

**THE CURRENCY.** SIKKA (also spelled SICCA), means, "struck", "stamped" or "impressed" and is a word applied to coinage. In the two reigns of the Sixth and the Seventh Nizams, the Hyderabad currency was known after their names. Hence the currency of His Exalted Highness, Nawab Meer OSMAN Ali Khan is known after his name as "SIKKA-E-OSMANIA".<sup>14</sup>

**THE SCRIPT.** The Persi-Arabic script, employed also in Urdu, is of Avesthic<sup>15</sup> origin, written anti-clockwise, i.e. from right to left. There are several styles of this script, of which two are employed in the Note in question. The TUGHRA or ornamental or monogrammatic script is used for the Motto in the Nizam's Dastar-e-Mubarak, and the rest is in NASTALEEQ script, commonly used in writing and in printing.

**URDU, THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE.** During the close of the 19th century, the Hindu population of Hyderabad State, which was much greater than that of the ruling Muslim community, demanded the removal of Persian as the State or official language and introduce URDU in its place. By the mingling of the Muslim foreign and the Hindu native populations, particularly in military camps and bazaars, a new language took birth, and was known as "URDU" or the language of the Camps and Bazaars. The basis

<sup>14</sup> Vide, Footnote No. 6 above.

<sup>15</sup> AVESTA is the sacred book of the Mazdaysnans (Mazdaism), known to European scholars as "Zoroastrians" and are known locally in India as "Parsi", for the simple reason that they migrated to India in the 7th Century A.D. after the conquest of Iran (Persia) by the Muslims.



of Urdu is Indian, but the vocabulary is rich in Persian, Arabic and Turkish words, with a sprinkling of Hindi. Hence Hyderabad State switched on to URDU as the State Language, and FASLI as the State Calendar, during the close of the 19th century.<sup>16</sup>

It would not be out of place to mention here that even after the merger of Hyderabad State into the Indian Union, in August 1947, this Emergency Paper Currency continued for some time, with the signature of the then Finance Minister in ENGLISH. Such Notes do not belong to the Regular Hyderabad State under the British Rule, but to the Interim period, when the then Government of India had created the Nizam (Asaf Jah VII), as RAJ PRAMUKH,<sup>17</sup> or HEAD OF THE STATE for some time. As such they belong to the staggering period between 1947, when the British left India for good and 1949, when India became Sovereign Republic, within the Commonwealth of Nations, with Her Britannic Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II<sup>18</sup> as the Head.

THE ONE RUPEE EMERGENCY CURRENCY NOTES OF HYDERABAD STATE were in circulation for about four and a half years, from January 1943 to August 1947.

<sup>16</sup> Later, in the reign of Asaf Jah VII (1911-1947), Urdu reached a high standard and was the medium of instruction in the Osmania University, named after the Founder, His Exalted Highness Meer Osman Ali Khan, Asaf Jah VII.

<sup>17</sup> Vide, "Ruler to Rajpramukh, Nizam VII" by Khan Bahadur, C. B. Taraporewalla, Financial Adviser to H.E.H. The Nizam, after the merger of Hyderabad State into Indian Union.

<sup>18</sup> Queen Victoria became "Kaiser-e-Hind", i.e. Empress of India in 1877, and her successors were also Emperors till 1947, when Great Britain granted Independence to India. Even after the Independence, Her Britannic Majesty remains the Head of the Commonwealth of Nations of which India is a member.

# **Richard Zarrins Centennial**

## **1869-1969**

by EUGEN DSELSKALEY

This past summer marked one hundred years since the birth of Professor Richard Zarrins (pronounced Zarrinsh), one of the greatest talent of all time within the field of philatelic numismatics. Very few people ever attained such a degree of proficiency combined with extraordinary versatility applied to the execution of postage-stamp, coin and currency design marked by thoroughly artistic presentation and etching skill.

Richard Zarrins was born on June 15, 1869 as a son of a Latvian peasant. Young Richard's ability to draw and his natural knack for fine, detailed etching provoked due interest among his teachers both in grade and secondary schools. This resulted in Richard arriving in St. Petersburg, Russia in 1886, with a lot of enthusiasm and determination, yet with very little money, his parents being anything but wealthy. His aim was to study at the famous Stiglitz Art School, but as he was unable to meet the strict demands of formal prerequisites, he had no choice, but to register as an auditor. Two years of studies proved how difficult it was for a poor Latvian boy to get higher education under Russian government. As a youth of 17 he now faced the most crucial period of his life, having nothing but sheer talent and perseverance to his credit, as his modest purse shank to the size of one meal a day and the commonest of lodgings paid a week in advance. Using his association with the famous art school as a shield, he soon obtained free-lance work as a commercial artist; yet pay was low, and the execution of work orders detracted from the time necessary for studies. Struggling as best he could, he somehow managed to establish a status of merit before his teachers. Within a year's time he not only became admitted to the school as a full-fledged student, but obtained a full scale scholarship as well. Having got the green light, he now progressed with a gusto until misfortune struck again. His parents had become impoverished by successive bad harvests and needed assistance. Richard took up his free lancing again, with the result that his school work deteriorated to the point where he lost his scholarship. After supreme efforts and struggles he finally graduated Stiglitz Art School in 1895 with the highest honours, obtaining a fellowship for further art studies abroad. Subsequently he studied lithography art and especially metal etching techniques in Berlin, Munich, Vienna, and Paris. His fellowship work abroad completed, he accepted a position in 1899 with the Russian Royal State Printing Office in St. Petersburg (Leningrad) where he worked for 10 years, becoming art director for postage-stamp, currency, and bond, etc., design and



production-art processes. Despite being a son of Latvian peasant parents, he reached brilliant career and success which have no comparison. Admirable is Zarrins success and Latvian nation can be proud of him.

He has authored countless artistic presentations, personally etching the most beautiful special stamps and larger-denomination currency. In the forefront of his stamp etchings are masterpieces such as the Peter the Great, Alexander III, and the Romanoff Dynasty 300 year memorial stamps and the World War I Charity Series, all of which were the so-called semi-postal stamps, carrying a small surcharge in addition to the postal revenue. These stamps are recognisable by the two prices printed on them—the revenue and the charity donation.

## Profesors Richards Zariņš

1869



The famous Latvian artist and designers of many postage stamps and banknotes issued by Imperial Russia and Republic of Latvia.

E. DZELZKALEJS

Professor Richard Zarrins drawings of czarist Russia's postage and semi-postal stamps date back to 1899. First Charity Series: Admiral Kornilov Monument, Pozharski and Minin Monument, Statue of Peter the Great and Alexander II Memorial and the Kremlin. These stamps were sold in advance over their postal value as indicated by the figures in parenthesis. The increase was donated to a fund for the orphans of soldiers killed in the Russo-Japanese War.

Next noteworthy Series had four large size stamps with such interesting motives as: Ilija Murametz Legendary Russian Hero, Don Cossack Bidding Farewell to his Sweetheart, Symbolical of

Charity, and St. George Slaying the Dragon. The stamps were sold one kopeck above the face value and this extra charge was donated to charities connected with the War of 1914-1917.

The most remarkable Series was issued in commemoration of the Tercentenary of the founding of the Romanoff dynasty. This Series proved once more that Richard Zarrins, author of countless postage stamps, was a man with great artistic talent.

Soon after Latvia became an independent state, defeating both German freebooters and the invading Russian troops in 1919, Zarrins arrived in his homeland and offered his services and talent to the new republic. He became the head of the Government Printing Office and also a professor of art at the Latvian State Academy of Art in Riga. The printing office consisted of both paper and mint divisions. As the new state had neither currency, nor coin or stamps, his tasks were enormous. He became a leading designer of Latvian coins, stamps, and banknotes. He loved his country and devoted all his work to her. The beginning of this period is reflected in the first Latvian stamps and banknotes which show values in rubles and kopecks, according to the Russian pattern. Only a few months later, a government decree changed the value denotements to franks and centimes, thus honouring public sentiment toward the allies which had helped Latvia to defeat her enemies. A year later the franc notes and stamps were withdrawn, together with the remaining ruble and kopeck denominations, and the new monetary values were designated as "lats" and "santims". Needless to say, these short-interval changes procured a demand for great numbers of new designs with which the printing office could comply only because of the resourcefulness and incessant work of Richard Zarrins. Under Professor Zarrins' leadership the Latvian State Printing Office in Riga was widely known abroad and its works was impossible to counterfeit.

The independence of the Latvian Republic being dissolved after annexation by Russia, as a result of World War II, the historic stamps, coins, and notes of once independent Latvia have now become items of rarity, their collector's value increasing with time. Each one of these items carries the earmark of Richard Zarrins artistic perception. Here is a list of his Latvian postage stamps:

- 1919 Allegory of One Year of Independence.
- 1919 Stamps issued in Honour of the Liberation of Kurzeme (Kurland).
- 1920 Latvia Welcoming Home Latgale Province.
- 1920 First National Assembly Issue.
- 1921 Arms and Stars for Vidzeme, Kurzeme, and Latgale.
- 1923 Commemoration of the Tercentenary of the Founding of the City of Liepaja (Libau)—these stamps were sold at a premium over their franking value and the surcharge was given to the city.



1928 President Janis Cakste Series.

1928 Z. A. Meirovics—the surtax was used to erect a monument for Z. A. Meirovics, Latvian statesman.  
The First Air Mail Stamps.

The versatility of his character prompted him to study nature, as well as history and ethnography. The thematical topics in his etchings show historic or legendary heroes, ethnic patterns with strongly individual inspirations; often he uses nature studies depicting landmarks of distinction and supplementing these with national ornaments of the locale. Ornamentics especially being old Latvian (Lettic) art of the ages, his personages more than often are shown wearing correctly styled national costumes dating back to pre-Christian eras. Following this trend (extremely popular among the Latvians) Richard Zarrins endeared himself to his countrymen by authoring a monumental work in Latvian ethnography contained in three enormous oversize volumes (*Latvju Rakstil*). This is a complete compilation of Latvian ornaments with text and illustration titles in two languages—Latvian and French. Ornaments and costumes are meticulously drawn and printed in the four-colour process showing unexcelled perfection in both drawing and printing techniques. In addition to pure ornamentics, national traditions, abodes, tools, and detailed characteristics of the Latvian mode of living have been presented. National costumes of the various regions of Latvia are shown in life-like settings as worn by people in their natural environment. Other illustrations show archaeological objects both drawn and photographed, as well as buildings and home furnishings.

We want to repeat again that Professor Richard Zarrins was a well-known Latvian graphist, illustrator and also editor of a very popular satirical weekly *Svari* (Scales), which was issued in Riga (1920–31).

The fame of Professor Zarrins brought a flow of foreign orders to the Government Printing Office, yet these orders were mostly for official notes and bonds. It appeared to be a general knowledge in Europe during the period between the two world wars, that Latvian banknotes did not very well lend themselves to counterfeit practice, the intricate designs being superimposed on seemingly underlying netting of fine ornamentation. Thus, even today, anyone interested in numismatic art will do himself a favour by examining a banknote issued by State Bank of Latvia—now extinct. A little country at the Baltic Sea with only two decades of independence to its credit in modern times, yet very well represented in this field—thanks to one man, Richard Zarrins.

# A HISTORY OF THE EAST LOTHIAN BANKING CO

by B. E. WILLIAMSON

On the 21st May, 1810 the following advertisement appeared in the Edinburgh Evening Courant . . .

"The East Lothian Banking Company will commence business on the first day of June next, at their office in Dunbar; Mr. William Borthwick, cashier, is fully empowered to transact their business. Their agents in Edinburgh are Messrs. Thompson & Co., 8 South Bridge Street; and in London, Messrs. Tod & Co.

"The stock of the company is £80,000 sterling and a list of partners may be seen at the Bank Office at Dunbar or at Messrs. Thompsons & Co.

Dunbar May 9—1810."

---

The partners were all local East Lothian businessmen, who, although knowledgeable in their own spheres, had never operated a bank before. The choice of cashier or manager in William Borthwick was their first and biggest mistake. It was this man who was to finally cause the downfall of the bank through his dubious dealings and eventually by his outright embezzlement. He was not alone in his criminal activities but the leader of a group of rather shady characters which included Bruce Borthwick, his brother, and two merchants, George Geudie and Adolf Ludwig Engel. One of the ruses used was to put money into companies in which the group were interested i.e.:

Wm. Borthwick, Dunbar; Bruce, Borthwick, Dunbar; Borthwick & Goudie, Belhaven; Geo. Goudie & Co., Belhaven; Bruce, Borthwick & Co., Konigsberg; Adolf Ludwig Engel of Konigsberg.

. . . with clients like that how could any business survive? This was also the conclusion that the directors had come to by 1821 and they now began to investigate Borthwick's work at the bank. For someone like Borthwick the answer was simple, he would simply dispose of the most troublesome of them.

One of the directors was more suspicious of him than the rest and he, accompanied by the law agent were to be lured to a certain spot, there hit on the head, bound and gagged and taken to one of Bruce Borthwick's ships. Since most of the cargo consisted of whisky what more natural than to put the unfortunates in puncheons (whisky barrels) that had been prepared with air holes beforehand. The ship would transport them to Danzig and from there they would be taken to the interior of Prussia for an extended holiday "without benefit of a change of clothing or use of shaving materials".



I cannot discover the reason for this plan not having been used (perhaps the commonsense of the others prevailed) but on April 10, 1822 William Borthwick left Dunbar never to set foot in it again. I might add that as a parting gesture he took with him £21,000 of the bank's money.

It was thought at first that he had gone to the United States and one of the partners went there to find him; later however he was thought to have gone to Norway. He was never caught.

The bank had never been a success and this was the last straw; it closed with liabilities amounting to £129,191 16s. 7d. and assets totalling £63,185 7s. 11d.

Sir William Forbes, the Edinburgh financier, loaned £100,000 to clear all outstanding debts on the promise of £250 per share. This was eventually paid thus ensuring that the bank met all its obligations.

It is the understandably proud boast of Scots bankers that Scotland is probably the only country in the world where the notes of certain failed banks as early as 1835 are still redeemable.



### The Notes

Only two notes are known to collectors, the £1 and £5 issued after 1815. Both these notes were printed by the foremost printing company in Edinburgh in the 19th century, James Kirkwood & Co. It was from Kirkwood's shop in 19 Parliament Square that the great fire of Edinburgh was supposed to have originated. These two notes were the only ones being issued in 1822 when the bank closed which means that a number of notes were discontinued at some time or other. I suggest that this phasing out operation took place in or around 1815 for this was when a new tax on bank notes was levied; it would be a natural thing to do to review the whole question of the bank's note issue at that time and since

each note issued had to have printed evidence that the tax had been paid on it, it would reduce the number of new plates necessary. I have divided the notes issued therefore into those before and those after the year 1815.

Notes issued between 1810 and 1815:

£1.0.0	No description
£1.1.0	" "
£2.0.0	" "
£2.2.0	" "
£5.0.0	" "
£20.0.0	" "

It is probable that the above notes all had obverses similar to the £1 and £5 described below and blank reverses, when the tax was introduced the two notes were retained with only a new design necessary for the back of each. This is all just guesswork but I was shown a letter recently by Mr. Alex Kirkwood proving that the above notes were issued and I feel that I'm not very far out in my reconstruction.

Notes issued between 1815 and 1822:

£1.0.0	Description below
£5.0.0	Description below

Both these notes were printed on white watermarked paper by James Kirkwood & Co., Edinburgh. The watermark consists of the words, "East Lothian Bank" in a scroll design and the scroll covers the counterfoil as well as the note. The vignettes on each note are almost identical, the only difference being those on the £5 note are larger. In the centre of each note is a view of Dunbar harbour and in the immediate foreground two maidens one of whom holds a coin laden cornucopia. The £5 note also shows a well known island on the horizon, the Bass Rock (now a bird sanctuary). From top to bottom of each note at the left hand side is a vignette of a sheaf of "wheat" against which lean an assortment of old agricultural instruments, the whole is wrapped in a banner saying "The East Lothian Bank". On the reverse of each note is a design in pink and black incorporating the tax of 5d. on the £1 and 1s. 3d. on the £5. Of the two the £1 design is the most attractive. The notes vary in size due to being printed in book form but both are approximately 12.2 cms high. The length varies greatly, from 15.5 to 16.5 cms in the case of the £1 and from 20.5 to 21.5 in the case of the £5.

Due to the fact that the notes were torn from a book the vignette on the left is rarely found complete and in fact this was meant to be a security measure. There is one last and most unusual point on each note; to the right of the central vignette on the £5 and to the left of the one on the £1 is a small oblong enclosing the words "East Lothian Bank". It looks uncannily like a small hand



cancellation and this is indeed the intention that the engraver had but it is really engraved on the plate and exactly the same on each note . . . trompe l'oeil on banknotes?

This then is the story of the East Lothian Banking Company of Dunbar, a story which after the space of 150 years can still bring an amused smile but it was one of the comparatively few Scots bank failures and it did much to bring about legislation to prevent a recurrence of such a thing.

If you have any information concerning either the bank, its notes or the people involved please do not hesitate to contact me.

Directors of the company were: Christopher Middlemas, John Gray of Chesterhall, John Dugeon, John Gray of Peatcox, William Turnbull, Andrew Taylor, William Hume, James Waterston, John Brodie of Scoughall.

# **WORLD WAR II PRISONER-OF-WAR SCRIP OF THE U.S.**

By ALBERT I. DONN

Authored by Albert I. Donn, who put uncounted hours into record research in compiling camp listings and ticket issues. This elusive money form was issued in accordance with Geneva Treaty agreements requiring captors to provide their prisoner with monetary needs for health and comfort.

Donn's catalogue presentation is divided according to the types of camps of issue, internment, prisoner-of-war, and Italian service units. The scrip ticket listings are arranged according to state of issue (nearly every state had such issues), with full descriptions of the issues being provided, more than 100 types of which are illustrated.

The Curto volume, a 304-page hard bound 6 x 9 book, is priced at \$12.50. The companion volume by Donn, also a hard bound 6 x 9 book with 112 pages, is priced at \$6.50. Collectors desiring to add both works to their bookshelves may purchase them at a special combination price of \$17.50. Both volumes are available direct from the publisher: Krause Publications, Book Division, Iola, Wis., 54945.



# German East African Currency 1885-1917

by JIMMIE N. LAWRENCE, F.R.N.S.

In 1860 scientific and geographical societies in Germany took an interest in East Africa. Several reports were written about explorations made into this territory recommending colonisation. Until 1884, when Dr. Karl Peters founded the Society for German Colonisation later to become the Deutsche Ostafrikanische Gesellschaft (the D.O.A.G.), there was no interest taken in this project. Later in the same year this man joined a group travelling to Zanzibar. From there he went over to the mainland, and, although he had no authorisation he found several chiefs willing to be placed under the protection of the German Kaiser. Upon returning to Germany Dr. Peters ran into difficulty as people did not take him seriously, but eventually he managed to obtain official recognition of the "Treaties" made between himself and the natives through an imperial Charter of Protection which was granted in 1885.

This caused considerable international alarm as Sultan Bogash of Zanzibar considered the land in question as his property. England and France were called in and sided with Germany.

Upon his death Sultan Bogash's successor Khalifa entered into an agreement with the D.O.A.G. whereby they would lease the adjacent mainland of Africa from him and administer it under his name, paying him a percentage of duties, rental and granting him certain interests in the company.

By the time Sultan Khalifa died in 1890, England was becoming alarmed at the growing German influence apparent in East Africa, so they entered into a treaty with Germany making Zanzibar a British Protectorate and completing the transfer of German East Africa over to the Imperial German Government. In spite of this however, it was only after an up-rising of the natives during the years 1905-1906 which caused much bloodshed and military expenses, that the country began to develop.

After the treaty of 1890 the German Imperial Government transacted an agreement with the D.O.A.G. permitting this company to continue striking and issuing silver and bronze coinage as legal tender throughout the colony.

## Coinage

The coins issued by the D.O.A.G. were four silver coins: a  $\frac{1}{4}$ , 1, 1 and 2 rupie and a bronze pesa. The Marie Theresa Taler used extensively throughout most of Africa was withdrawn and the large 2 rupie replaced it. The rest of the coins corresponded in value and size to the Indian rupie and the anna.

In 1902 the Company renounced their right to strike coins for the territory, bringing to an end the first coinage issue of G.E. Africa. The pesa was the first to go, being withdrawn in 1910.

The Imperial German Government passed an ordinance for the minting of again four silver coins:  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1 and 2 rupie and one nickel coin, the 10 heller, and three copper coins: 5, 1 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  heller. In 1912 they brought out the nickel 5 heller. A point of interest here is that the 2 rupie coins were never struck as the D.O.A.G. mintage was more than sufficient.

The third and shortest phase of the G.E.A. coinage commenced in 1916 when the authorities were faced with an acute shortage of coins, because of the British blockade during the first World War which prevented any new coins coming from Germany. Emergency issues were produced for a short period at Tabora until, later in the same year, Tabora was occupied by the Belgian Congo Army. Metals used at Tabora were gold, brass and copper. These emergency issues were the 5 heller copper, 5 heller brass, 20 heller copper and the 20 heller brass all dated 1916.



On examination it would appear that many of the Tabora 15 rupie gold pieces were tampered with in some way. This however, uncovers the unusual method used in making them. Doctor Schumacher was in charge of the gold "mint" with seven or eight natives working with him. The blanks were filed and smoothed by hand using emery paper to obtain the correct weight. After they had been struck the coins were scrubbed with brass brushes and polished with soap-tree oil.



Most of the brass and copper to make the other coins came from the scrap metal such as old cartridge cases taken from both armies, pipes and fittings stripped from damaged ships.

### Die Varieties

There are many die varieties in the striking of the 1916 coinage. Variations in the size of the crown, the different style of lettering, and the die varieties of the number of leaves on the 20 heller coin.

### Paper Money

In the first years of the administration of German East Africa, it became necessary to issue local promissory notes, credit notes, and Post Office notes. These were freely used by firms, trading companies and the private community accepted them as currency.

In 1905 the German East Africa Bank was established and issued bank notes. They opened in Dar es Salaam and issued notes dated 1905, for 5, 10, 50 and 100 rupie. These notes were printed in Leipzig by Messrs. Giesecke & Devrient on special paper with watermark and cross stars.

The 500 rupie note followed on September 2nd, 1912. Like in all colonies, the use of paper money was restricted to coastal areas, because the promissory notes of traders were used in the more remote areas, and was accepted by the primitive natives.



In March, 1915, short-term notes (interim Notes) for the value of 20 Rupie were printed and accepted all over G.E.A. and later came the notes for 1, 5, 10, 50 and 200 Rupie.

These interim notes, called such, as the Germans counted on a short war, looked very primitive as there were no printers or suitable paper available. All types, colour and thickness of paper was used. This issue of interim notes were printed by the "East African News Paper", first in Dar es Salaam, and later in Tabora.

On the obverse of the note, one reads the value, the date, and the place of printing; on the reverse the penalty for imitating the notes, in German and Swahili, the local language.

### **Bush Notes**

After three years of war another issue of interim bank notes appeared, but these were even more primitive than the first issue. This second issue of interim notes were printed by means of a children's rubber printing set. All Bush Notes were signed by hand. The printing of these notes varied greatly because of different pressure put on the rubber stamp.

The 1917 Bush Notes were printed in denominations of 1, 5, 10 and 50 Rupie.

## **GERMAN EAST AFRICAN BANK NOTES IN CIRCULATION, 1905-1917**

Paper money printing chart.

### **Deutsch-Ostafrikanische Bank. 1905-1914**

5 Rupie	53,955
10 Rupie	41,612
50 Rupie	29,618
100 Rupie	18,796
500 Rupie	696

### **Interim Notes. 1915-1916**

1 Rupie	7,499,925
5 Rupie	899,925
10 Rupie	299,997
20 Rupie	99,999
50 Rupie	56,225
200 Rupie	20,604

### **Bush Notes. 1917**

1 Rupie	2,323,034 (only figure known). These are all approximate.
5 Rupie	89,981 or 191,765    "    "    "
10 Rupie	192,938    "    "    "
50 Rupie	56,225    "    "    "

Bush Notes were printed by any German Office with a rubber stamp, and no real records were kept.



1. British Occupation of Burma notes.
2. Reserve Bank of New Zealand \$5 overprinted for Fiji.
3. Military Canteen chits.

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